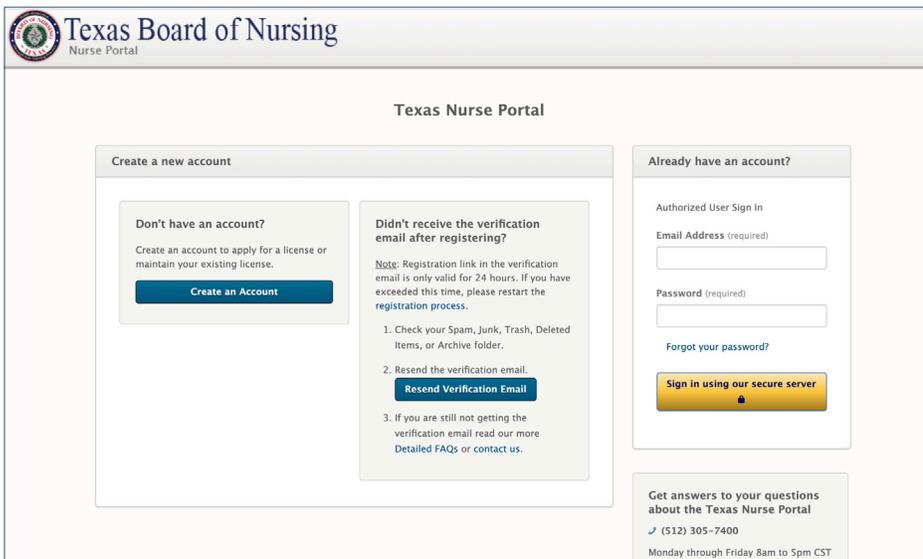




## Texas Nurse Portal: More Than 400,000 Nurses Have Created Portal Accounts Since 2020 Launch



The Texas Board of Nursing (Board) launched the new licensure nurse portal or Optimal Regulatory Board System (ORBS) on June 15, 2020. Since the date of implementation, the Board has recorded over 412,000 users creating a portal account; over 458,000 license applications initiated; up to 420,000 license applications completed; and has automatically renewed almost 425,000 licenses online.

Although close to being paperless, the Board still receives some paper documents from out-of-state and international applicants. It is anticipated that by the end of the coming fiscal year in August 2022, the Board will receive all payments online and will be able to eliminate the need for any customer to mail checks for fines, new school applications, lists, and/or copies of documents.



### Fee Reduction in 2022

On October 21, 2021, the Texas Board of Nursing voted to reduce the fee charged to students taking the NLCEX examination by \$25. The total fee charged to student applicants will drop from \$100 to \$75 and is anticipated to be effective in early 2022.



*The Texas Board of Nursing will be moving to a new location in 2022.*

*Further information on the date of the move and the new location will be provided at a later date.*

### Inside this issue

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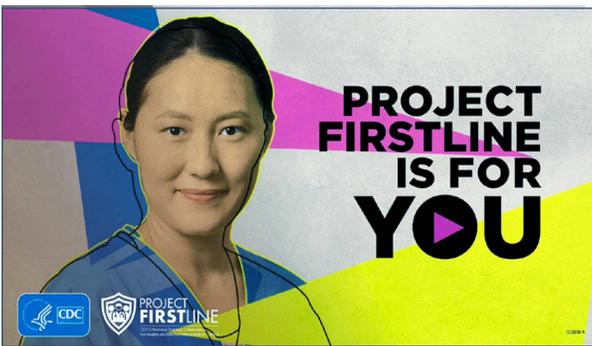


## DSHS Sponsored Infection Prevention Training Courses

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to promote infection control training for all frontline workers across various healthcare settings. Due to the high rate of infections and increased need for infection prevention, the CDC is currently offering quick, easy, and free online training to frontline workers. To view the CDC Project Firstline Trainings, visit: [https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/resources.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Finfectioncontrol%2Fprojectfirstline%2Ftraining%2Findex.html](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/resources.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Finfectioncontrol%2Fprojectfirstline%2Ftraining%2Findex.html).

DSHS recommends that all frontline workers in Texas are provided with information on CDC Firstline training modules. Many of the Infection Prevention training videos can be incorporated into annual Infection Prevention trainings (most videos are only about three minutes long).

As an added incentive, healthcare facilities and public health jurisdictions with the most healthcare worker participation (based on training completion rates) will be invited to send an individual to one of the free DSHS sponsored Infection Prevention Trainings. An Introduction to Infection Prevention Course geared toward new infection preventionists will be offered on February 10-11, 2022. A CDC Preparatory course geared toward experienced infection preventionists and CDC exam scholarships will be offered March 10-11, 2022. These courses will be provided to facilities with individuals who have completed the most trainings or one spot will be awarded to facilities that have the most healthcare workers complete at least one training.



Click the link to access Texas Project Firstline Training Tracker:  
<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/IDCU/HSU/Healthcare-Safety-Training-Team.aspx>

Email your Training Tracker to:  
[HAITexas@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:HAITexas@dshs.texas.gov)

### Did You Know - Outpatient Anesthesia Registry

Did you know that certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) who provide anesthesia or anesthesia-related services in certain outpatient settings are required to register with the Texas Board of Nursing (Board)? See Board Rule 221.16 for additional information. CRNAs who are required to register may do so via their Texas Nurse Portal accounts.



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# Summary of Actions



A regular meeting of the Board of Nursing was held October 21, 2021, in Austin. The following is a summary of Board actions taken during this meeting.

In the **October 15, 2021**, edition of the *Texas Register*:

The Board of Nursing (BON or Board) published its notice to review the following chapters pursuant to its adopted Rule Review Plan: Chapter 227. Pilot Programs for Innovative Applications to Vocational and Professional Nursing Education, §§227.1 -227.4

The Board did not receive any public comments on the above rules. The BON has completed its review and has determined that the reasons for originally adopting the above rules continue to exist. The rules were also reviewed to determine whether they were obsolete, whether they reflected current legal and policy considerations and current procedures and practices of the Board, and whether they were in compliance with *Texas Government Code* Chapter 2001 (*Texas Administrative Procedure Act*). The BON found that the rules are not obsolete, reflect current legal and policy considerations, current procedures and practices of the Board, and that the rules are in compliance with the *Texas Administrative Procedure Act*. The Board readopted the rules in Chapter 227 without changes, pursuant to the *Texas Government Code* §2001.039 and *Texas Occupations Code* §301.151, which authorizes the BON to adopt, enforce, and repeal rules consistent with its legislative authority under the *Nursing Practice Act*.

In the **November 19, 2021**, edition of the *Texas Register*:

The BON adopted amendments to §213.28, relating to *Licensure of Individuals with Criminal History*, without changes to the proposed text as published in the September 10, 2021, edition of the *Texas Register* (46 TexReg 5724). The amendments were adopted under the authority of the *Occupations*

*Code* §301.151 and House Bills (HB) 375 and 757, both enacted during the 87th Legislative Session and both effective September 1, 2021. HB 375 amends the existing criminal offense found in the *Texas Penal Code* §21.02, Continuous Sexual Abuse of Young Child or Children, to include disabled individuals. This offense is currently specified in the enumerated list of crimes in the *Occupations Code* §301.4535 that mandates licensure revocation and denial and is included in the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines for Criminal Conduct (Guidelines). The adopted amendments to the Guidelines, located at §213.28(c), amend the title of this criminal offense for consistency with the statutory change made by HB 375.

HB 757 prohibits a licensing agency from denying, suspending, or revoking a license based upon a deferred adjudication that has been successfully completed and dismissed, except in certain, specified circumstances. Under the terms of the bill, a successfully completed deferred adjudication may be considered by a licensing agency when issuing, renewing, denying, or revoking a license if the offense is listed in the *Texas Code of Criminal Procedure* Article 42A.054(a); is described by the *Texas Code of Criminal Procedure* Article 62.001(5) or (6); is committed under *Texas Penal Code* Chapter 21 or 43; or is related to the activity or conduct for which the individual seeks or holds the license. Further, an agency may also consider a completed deferred adjudication if the profession for which the individual holds or seeks a license involves direct contact with children in the normal course of official duties or duties for which the license is required. The adopted amendments to §213.28 are necessary for consistency with these statutory directives. Amendments to §213.28 were effective November 24, 2021.

The Board also adopted amendments to 22 *Texas Administrative Code* §213.33, relating to

*Factors Considered for Imposition of Penalties/Sanctions*, without changes to the proposed text published in the September 10, 2021, edition of the *Texas Register* (46 TexReg 5726). The amendments were adopted under the authority of the *Occupations Code* §301.151 and HB 1434, effective September 1, 2021. HB 1434, enacted during the 87th Legislative Session, created a new disciplinary cause of action for practitioners who conduct pelvic examinations on unconscious or anesthetized patients without proper informed consent, where the procedure is not within the standard scope of a scheduled procedure or diagnostic examination, where the examination is not necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of the patient's medical condition, or where the examination is not for the purpose of collecting evidence. The new disciplinary cause of action is located in the *Occupations Code* §301.452(b)(13). Amendments to the Board's Disciplinary Matrix (Matrix) were necessary for consistency with this statutory change. Amendments to §213.33 were effective November 23, 2021.

The BON also adopted amendments to 22 *Texas Administrative Code* §214.4 and §215.4, relating to *Approval*, without changes to the proposed text published in the September 10, 2021, edition of the *Texas Register* (46 TexReg 5728). HB 2426, enacted by the 80th Legislature, required the Board to identify national nursing accreditation agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education with standards equivalent to the Board's ongoing approval standards. To implement the requirements of HB 2426, the Board conducted a comprehensive comparative review of national accreditation standards and identified two accreditation agencies with equivalent standards: the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and the Commission on

continued on page 14

## Nursing Education Actions - October 2021 Board Meeting

### Reviewed Reports:

Status Report on New Nursing Education Programs and Currently Active and Potential Proposals

Status Report on Programs with Sanctions

Report on Communication Activities with Nursing Education Programs

**Approval of Change in Approval Status from Initial Approval to Full Approval:**

St. Philip's College – Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in San Antonio

**Approval of Report of Virtual Survey Visit:**

St. Philip's College – Vocational Nursing Education Programs in San Antonio and New Braunfels

**Approval of New Pre-Licensure Nursing Track at the Master's Level:**

Texas Lutheran University in Seguin

**Report and Presentations on Academic/Practice Partnership Models in Nursing Education:**

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

The University of Houston College of Nursing in Sugar Land

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing in El Paso



# APRN Scope of Practice and Age Parameters

The advanced practice registered nurse's (APRN's) scope of practice is addressed in Texas Board of Nursing **Rule 221.12**. This rule states that the APRN's scope of practice is based upon advanced practice nursing educational preparation, continued advanced practice experience, and the accepted scope of professional practice of the particular specialty area. The Core Standards for Advanced Practice found in **Board Rule 221.13** further clarify that advanced practice nurses must function within the advanced role and population focus area/specialty appropriate to their educational preparation.

APRN programs for certain population foci provide education relating to the provision of care to patients within a particular age range. The Board has never set a specific lower or upper age limit for APRNs licensed within neonatal, pediatric, or adult-gerontology population foci. The age limitations for such providers depend on the specific APRN education program they attended. For example, adult-gerontology nurse practi-

tioner (AGNP) education generally includes formal preparation for the provision of care to patients across the adult lifespan. It does not generally include content related to the care of children. However, it should be noted that most AGNP programs include content related to adolescents. It is possible that one AGNP program prepares nurse



practitioners to see patients that are age 21 and older and another AGNP program prepares nurse practitioners to provide care to patients that are 13 and older. The lower end of the age range varies depending on the specific AGNP program attended. This information should be available from the director of the program attended by the APRN.

Although APRNs may have experience working with a particular subset of patients as a registered nurse, experiences gained as a registered nurse are not considered equivalent to, nor may they be accepted in lieu of, formal edu-

cational preparation in a specific advanced practice role and population focus area/specialty. If an APRN wishes to provide advanced practice nursing care to patients outside their population foci of education and licensure they would need to complete additional formal education and obtain licensure as an APRN within the desired APRN role and/or population focus. Otherwise, an APRN may only participate in the care of such a patient, to the extent they are capable, within the scope of an RN.

Additional resources and information relating to this topic can be found on the

**APRN Practice information page** and the **APRN Scope of Practice** information page on the Board's website. Board staff also recommend review of position statements, curriculum guidance, and other publications from national nursing organizations.



Nov. 16, 2021

## Policy Statement: Dissemination of Non-scientific and Misleading COVID-19 Information by Nurses

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### Purpose

To address the misinformation being disseminated about COVID-19 by nurses.

For the purposes of this statement, misinformation is defined as distorted facts, inaccurate or misleading information not grounded in the peer-reviewed scientific literature and counter to information being disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

### Statement

Nurses are expected to be “prepared to practice from an evidence base; promote safe, quality patient care; use clinical/critical reasoning to address simple to complex situations; assume accountability for one’s own and delegated nursing care” (AACN, 2021).

SARS-CoV-2 is a potentially deadly virus. Providing misinformation to the public regarding masking, vaccines, medications and/or COVID-19 threatens public health. Misinformation, which is not grounded in science and is not supported by the CDC and FDA, can lead to illness, possibly death, and may prolong the pandemic. It is an expectation of the U.S. boards of nursing, the profession, and the public that nurses uphold the truth, the principles of the *Code of Ethics for Nurses* (ANA, 2015) and highest scientific standards when disseminating information about COVID-19 or any other health-related condition or situation.

When identifying themselves by their profession, nurses are professionally accountable for the information they provide to the public. Any nurse who violates their state nurse practice act or threatens the health and safety of the public through the dissemination of misleading or incorrect information pertaining to COVID-19, vaccines and associated treatment through verbal or written methods including social media may be disciplined by their board of nursing. Nurses are urged to recognize that dissemination of misinformation not only jeopardizes the health and well-being of the public, but may place their license and career in jeopardy as well.

### References

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). (2021). The Essentials: core competencies for professional nursing education. Retrieved from <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/pdf/Essentials-2021.pdf>

American Nurses Association. (2015). *Code of Ethics for Nurses*. Retrieved November 10, 2021, from <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/>

### Endorsements

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)	National League for Nursing (NLN)
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)	NLN Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA)
American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)	National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA)
American Nurses Association (ANA)	Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN)
American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL)	

**Question:** Are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) authorized to order or prescribe monoclonal antibody infusions for the treatment of COVID-19? Is this considered off-label use and prohibited by Texas Board of Nursing (Board) Rule?

**Response:** Off-label drug use is commonly considered to be the ordering or prescribing of a drug for an indication that differs from the indication for which the drug is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Off-label use can also refer to the use of a drug in a different dosage or different form than was approved by the FDA or for a different patient population (Wittich et al., 2012). Board Rules do not prohibit ordering and prescribing drugs off-label provided the decision to prescribe that drug is supported by evidence based research and is within the current standard of care for treatment of the disease or condition. Off-label prescribing by APRNs is specifically addressed in **Board Rule 222.4(f)**.

With regard to the question about APRNs ordering or prescribing monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of COVID-19, it is necessary to consider that there are monoclonal antibody products that have emergency use authorization from the FDA. Information regarding these products may be further reviewed in the **discussion from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)** (2021). While the information provided by the

NIH is clear that emergency use authorization is not the same as full FDA approval, it is also clear that the FDA has acknowledged the benefit of certain monoclonal

*Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-produced molecules that act as substitute antibodies that can restore, enhance or mimic the immune system's attack on cells. Monoclonal antibodies for COVID-19 may block the virus that causes COVID-19 from attaching to human cells, making it more difficult for the virus to reproduce and cause harm. Monoclonal antibodies may also neutralize a virus.*

Source: US Food and Drug Administration

antibody products and authorized their use for treating COVID-19 in certain situations based on the evidence thus far. Given the emergency use authorization and the current standards for treatment of COVID-19 from the **NIH and Infectious Diseases Society of America**, it is reasonable to consider that this is the intended use of these monoclonal antibodies. Therefore, the use of monoclonal antibodies with emergency use authorization for the treatment of COVID-19 is not viewed in the same way as the off-label use of FDA approved drugs.

An APRN may order or prescribe monoclonal antibody treatments that have received emergency use authorization for COVID-19 patients when it is within the current standard of care to do so provided

it is within the scope of the role and population focus for which the APRN has been licensed. The APRN must have the appropriate physician delegation [see **Board Rule 221.13(d)**] and prescriptive authority agreement (**Board Rule 222.5**) or facility-based protocol (**Board Rule 222.6**) in place prior to engaging in this practice.

It is important to recognize that the standard of care for the treatment of COVID-19 is changing rapidly as research and clinical trials continue to reveal new information about this virus, its variants, and its responses to pharmacological therapies and treatments. Thus, it is important to emphasize that each APRN has a duty to ensure that the drugs and treatments ordered or prescribed are within the current standard of care.

References:

National Institutes of Health. (2021, October 19). Anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies. <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/anti-sars-cov-2-antibody-products/anti-sars-cov-2-monoclonal-antibodies/>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2021, October 26). COVID-19 frequently asked questions. <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions#:~:text=Monoclonal%20antibodies%20are%20laboratory%2D,also%20neutralize%20a%20virus>

Wittich, C. M., Burkle, C. M., & Lanier, W. L. (2012). Ten common questions (and their answers) about off-label drug use. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, 87(10), 982–990. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mayocp.2012.04.017>



Pamela Lauer, MPH

# TCNWS

Understanding the Changing Nursing Workforce in Texas

TEXAS CENTER FOR NURSING WORKFORCE STUDIES



TEXAS Health and Human Services

Department of State Health Services

Pamela Lauer is Program Director at Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies.

## The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS)

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS), established in 2004, was created in response to the passage of House Bill 3126 from the 78<sup>th</sup> Regular Legislative Session. Under the guidance of a 21-member nursing advisory committee, the nursing workforce center was created to collect, analyze, and publish data on the nursing workforce in Texas.

**Mission: To develop and maintain a statewide system that serves stakeholders by describing and forecasting the supply and demand of the changing nursing workforce in Texas.**

**Vision: Quality healthcare for all Texans through an optimal nursing workforce based on reliable, valid, and useful data.**

## TCNWS Advisory Committee

The TCNWS is guided by a 21-member nursing advisory committee. This committee is comprised of nurses, educators of nurses, and employers of nurses as well as representatives from associations that represent these groups; a representative from the Board of Nursing; two nurse researchers; and a consumer member.

The advisory committee is statutorily required to review policy matters on the collection of data and reports produced by the TCNWS, develop priorities and an operations plan for the TCNWS, and review reports and information before dissemination.

The nursing advisory committee oversees subcommittees and taskforces

related to the different projects conducted by the TCNWS. For more information on these subcommittees and taskforces and how to get involved, please visit: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/cnws/TCNWSAC/>

## TCNWS Projects and Activities

The TCNWS is part of the Center for Health Statistics at the Department of State Health Services. This team, comprised of five researchers, is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data from a variety of nursing workforce projects, disseminating data to varied audiences, and providing custom data reports and technical consultation to stakeholders.

## Nursing Education Data

In collaboration with the Texas Board of Nursing (Board), the Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) is collected every October and serves as an official source for nursing education data, including: program admissions, enrollment, and graduation numbers; faculty numbers and demographics; student demographics; and program characteristics. 2021 nursing education data will be published in March 2022.

## Nurse Staffing Data

Every two years, the TCNWS conducts nurse staffing surveys of hospitals, long term care nursing facilities, home health and hospice agencies, and governmental public health agencies. Through these surveys, data are collected on staffing numbers, hours and costs of methods of interim staffing, length of time to fill positions, and recruitment and retention strategies, as well as other setting specific topics. These data are used to calculate

vacancy and turnover rates in these settings and to get a pulse on labor market demand for nurses across the state. The next round of nurse staffing surveys will be disseminated in Spring 2022 and results published in October 2022.

## Supply and Demand Projections

Supply and demand projections for licensed vocational nurses, registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses are also made available by the TCNWS. Using the Health Workforce Simulation Model and the Healthcare Demand Microsimulation Model also used by the Health Resources and Services Administration, projections were developed using state-level data inputs. The most recent projections available are based on 2018 baseline data and go through 2030.

## Workforce Demographics

The TCNWS also analyzes and reports on demographics and trends of the nursing workforce based on data gathered from the Board licensure renewal process which includes gender, race, and practice information for all nurses in Texas. Demographic data is currently available through the year 2019.

## Workplace Violence

Through an individual nurse survey and a survey of employers of nurses, the TCNWS has reported on the prevalence of workplace violence incidents among nurses in Texas and on the policies and programs used by employers to prevent workplace violence against their nursing staff. These two surveys will be conducted again in 2022.

continued on next page



## How Nurse Employers Can Help Protect the Public

It is unfortunate, but a reality exists that the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) receives complaints of individuals who misrepresent themselves as licensed nurses to employers in Texas. Even more unfortunate, is that on occasion these individuals are hired and begin practicing before an attempt to verify the individual's licensure. Examples of these instances are well documented in previous issues of the *Texas Board of Nursing Bulletin*.

Employers have a significant role in protecting the public by ensuring that any individual offered a position of employment as a nurse is licensed and/or holds a privilege to practice in the jurisdiction where the patient care

### TCNWS - cont. from prev. page

In 2018 the Workplace Violence Against Nurses Grant Program was established to fund innovative approaches to preventing violence against nurses in hospitals, nursing facilities, home health agencies, and freestanding emergency medical centers.

#### Data Dissemination

The TCNWS is dedicated to disseminating nursing workforce data through as many channels as possible.

Thematical data fact sheets summarizing the results from surveys are published after the completion of each project. Brochures highlighting the most salient findings and policy recommendations from each project are also developed. The TCNWS has begun creating interactive dashboards to make data more readily available to stakeholders.

The TCNWS also shares data with stakeholders by providing custom data tables and reports, presenting at conferences and workshops, and sponsoring exhibit tables at conferences and

takes place. Today, licensure verification can easily be accomplished online through the Board Nurse Portal at: <https://txbn.boardsofnursing.org/licenselookup>, as well as through the QuickConfirm License Verification on the Nursys® website at: <https://www.nursys.com/LQC/LQCTerms.aspx>. Both of these methods of verifying licensure are considered primary sources of licensure verification. It should be additionally noted, that a copy of a paper licensure certificate provided to an employer should not be accepted for licensure verification purposes. There have been instances of individuals attempting to secure employment using fraudulent digital and paper licensure certificates.

meetings to share information about the Center, the advisory committee, and the nursing workforce in Texas.

Additionally, the TCNWS participates as a member of the **National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers**, sharing nursing workforce data, information, and best practices with other nursing workforce centers across the country.

#### What the TCNWS Can Do for You

All data collected by the nursing workforce center is available to the public. All data and analyses contained within reports accessed on the TCNWS website can be produced at a sub-state and even sub-regional level by request. We are happy to consult on available data as well as on research and analysis. Staff are also always available to present at your next meeting or conference on data collected and reported by the TCNWS.

Under the guidance of the TCNWS advisory committee and in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, we are committed to collecting and

Finally, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing offers a free service to all employers and licensees, e-Notify®, that is a national nurse licensure notification system that automatically delivers push notifications of licensure and publicly available discipline data. Employers who enroll in e-Notify® will be automatically notified by e-mail of any changes in licensure status of the nurses they employ. Additionally, nurses can enroll individually and receive free push notifications with license renewal reminders. The Nursys e-Notify® service can be accessed at: <https://www.nursys.com/EN/ENDefault.aspx>

disseminating data that could lead to a stronger nursing workforce and ultimately a healthier Texas.

Please visit our website at: [www.dshs.texas.gov/nursingworkforce](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/nursingworkforce) or reach out to us by email at [tcnws@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:tcnws@dshs.texas.gov)

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- \* e-Notify
- \* Nurse License Verification
- \* Licensure QuickConfirm

# Texas Data Shows Unvaccinated People 20 times More Likely to Die From COVID-19

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A new study released by the Texas Department of State Health Services shows that during the month of September, Texans not vaccinated against COVID-19 were about 20 times more likely to suffer a COVID-19-associated death and 13 times more likely to test positive than people who were fully vaccinated (See Graphs 1 and 2).

An analysis of data from the four-week period from September 4th through October 1st shows that vaccination had a strong protective effect across all ages. While the impact varied across age groups, it was most pronounced in younger groups. The risk of COVID-19 death was 23 times higher in unvaccinated people in their

30s and 55 times higher for people in their 40s, compared with their vaccinated peers. There were fewer than 10 COVID-19 deaths among fully vaccinated people ages 18 to 29 compared with 84 deaths among unvaccinated people in the same age group.

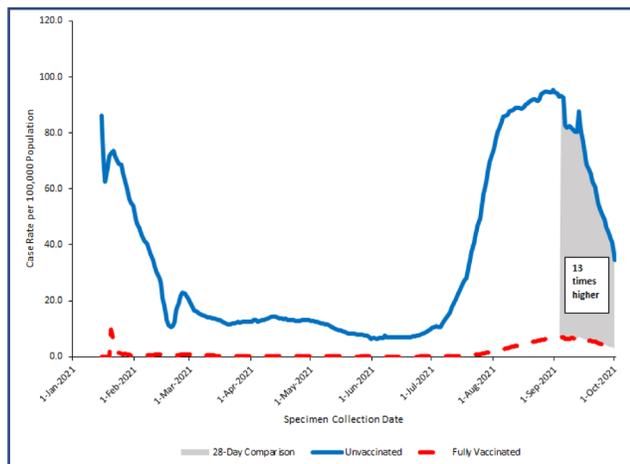
The study, which matched electronic lab reports and death certificates with state immunization records, is the state’s first statistical analysis of the real-world impact of vaccination against COVID-19 in Texas.

“This analysis quantifies what we’ve known for months,” said Chief State Epidemiologist Jennifer Shuford, MD. “The COVID-19 vaccines are doing

an excellent job of protecting people from getting sick and from dying from COVID-19. Vaccination remains the best way to keep yourself and the people close to you safe from this deadly disease.”

Public health researchers focused specifically on the September period to measure the effect of COVID-19 vaccination as the more contagious Delta variant surged across Texas. A summary with a link to the full analysis, including data from a January 15th through October 1st period, is available at: [dshs.texas.gov/immunize/covid19/data/vaccination-status.aspx](https://dshs.texas.gov/immunize/covid19/data/vaccination-status.aspx).

Graph 1

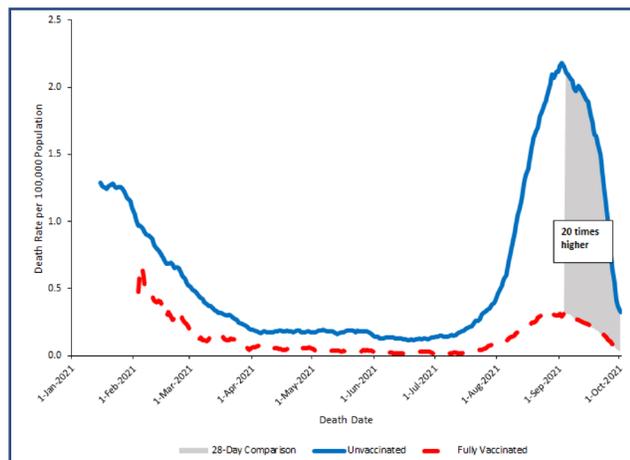


Time period: September 4, 2021 – October 1, 2021

From September 4, 2021 to October 1, 2021, unvaccinated people were 13 times more likely to become infected than fully vaccinated people. The impact was similar across most age groups. As with the full time period, smaller numbers of cases in the 12 to 17 year age group decreased the numerator of the incidence rate (fully vaccinated people with COVID-19 positive electronic laboratory reports (ELRs) per 100,000 fully vaccinated people). This in turn made the impact estimate (the ratio of the incidence rates) less stable and more difficult to interpret.

Graph 1: Overall crude case rate (daily 7-day moving average) by vaccination status,

Graph 2



Time period: September 4, 2021 – October 1, 2021

From September 4, 2021 to October 1, 2021, unvaccinated people were 20 times more likely to experience COVID-19-associated death than fully vaccinated people. The impact generally decreased with age. However, the relatively smaller number of deaths among younger age groups made the impact estimate less stable and more difficult to interpret. Because the total number of deaths among the 12 to 17 age group was so small, it was not presented separately.

Graph 2: Overall crude death rate (daily 7-day moving average) by vaccination status,

January 15, 2021 to October 1, 2021

Source: <https://dshs.texas.gov/immunize/covid19/data/Cases-and-Deaths-by-Vaccination-Status-11082021.pdf>

# APRNs Practicing in More Than One APRN Role and/or Population Focus Area



Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) licensure from the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) authorizes the license holder to practice in a specific advanced practice role (such as nurse-midwife or nurse practitioner) in a specific population focus area (such as neonatal or adult/gerontology acute care). APRNs are limited to practicing only in the role and population focus area for which they have been licensed. However, there are some APRNs in Texas who want to practice in more than one APRN role and/or population focus. There is a mechanism for APRNs to expand their licensure to an additional APRN role and/or population focus area.

**Board Rule 221.4(a)(10) and (c)(8)** advises APRNs regarding expanded licensure:

*APRN applicants who wish to practice in more than one role and/or population focus area shall complete additional education in the desired area(s) of licensure in compliance with the education requirements set forth in this chapter and meet all requirements for licensure in each additional role or population focus area. To apply for licensure for more than one role and/or population focus area, the applicant shall submit a separate application and fee for each desired role and/or population focus area. Additional licensure is required for those licensed APRNs seeking to include an additional:*

(A) *APRN role and population focus area;*

(B) *Population focus area within the same APRN role; or*

(C) *APRN role within the same population focus area.*

This language also appears in Rule 221.4(c)(8) so that applicants for licensure by endorsement are aware.

It is important to note that additional formal education is required for an APRN to enter practice in a new APRN role and/or population focus. Formal education must be completed in an accredited graduate level program at the master's, post-master's, or doctoral level. This requirement is consistent with the Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education (LACE) Statement on APRNs Changing a Population or Role (LACE Network, 2021). Likewise, the APRN must obtain national certification in the additional role or population focus. APRNs seeking to complete additional education in a different role or population focus and faculty who teach these students may wish to review the LACE Network's statement in greater depth.

APRNs who want to practice in more than one APRN role or more than one population focus must apply for and be granted licensure in each APRN role and population focus **before** they can begin practicing in the additional area of practice. Applications for licensure in the additional role and population focus must be submitted through the **Texas Nurse Portal**. Verification of completion forms (also known as Part 2 of the application), official transcripts, and certification in the additional role

and/or population focus are required. Additional documentation may be requested if necessary to verify an applicant meets all requirements for licensure in the additional role and population focus. Questions regarding these requirements may be directed to the APRN office at [aprn@bon.texas.gov](mailto:aprn@bon.texas.gov).

Resources:

LACE Network. (2021, November 1). *LACE statement on APRN's changing a population or role*. [https://www.pncb.org/sites/default/files/resources/LACE\\_Statement\\_on\\_AP RNs\\_Changing\\_Populations.pdf](https://www.pncb.org/sites/default/files/resources/LACE_Statement_on_AP RNs_Changing_Populations.pdf).

## Prescriptive Authority Course for APRNs Available Online

Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON) staff have updated the online course *Prescriptive Authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)* available within the **CNE course catalog** on the Board's website. Registration for the course costs \$25. This online course provides information on the current laws and regulations governing prescriptive authority in the State of Texas. The course is designed to help the learner develop a greater understanding of delegation of prescriptive authority to Texas APRNs and requirements that must be met for APRNs to be in compliance with Texas laws and BON rules. The course has been approved for 1.2 contact hours of Continuing Nursing Education which can be used towards the five hours of pharmacotherapeutics content required for APRNs renewing prescriptive authority.

# NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The following nurses had disciplinary action taken against their licenses through a Board order containing public information about the nurse's disciplinary action. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the Board's licensure verification system should be utilized for verification. You can obtain information about these disciplinary actions from the Board's website, [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov), using the verification look-up under Licensure or under the disciplinary action section of Discipline & Complaints. Under Licensure, select Verification, then click on the applicable license type; Discipline & Complaints, select Disciplinary Action, then select individual newsletter date. Additionally, you can send your written request to the Texas Board of Nursing, Enforcement Division, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701-3944.

Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date	Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date
Adams, John Austin	RN 692132 & LVN 166149	Warning with Stipulations	10/21/21	Cook, Gina Louise	LVN 132619	Revoked	8/10/21
Adams, Michelle McDonald	AP110815, RX 3862 & RN 649286	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21	Corbin, Catherine	RN 653847	Voluntary Surrender	10/20/21
Adeyoyin, Victor	RN 968437	Warning with Stipulations, Deferred	8/10/21	Crawford, Susan R.	RN 780773	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21
Aimiwu, John Ehiosu	LVN 1046149	Voluntary Surrender	9/16/21	Cross-Brooks, Patricia Sue	RN 706023	Probated Suspension	10/21/21
Akanbi, Christiana A.	LVN 326454	Probated Suspension	10/21/21	Cureton, Amber Lee	LVN 326589	Revoked	10/21/21
Ako-Ashu, Angela	RN 656076	Revoked	6/3/21	Davis, Bailey Brooke	RN 798816	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21
Alexander, Courtney	LVN 1031746	Enforced Suspension	9/27/21	Davis, Hayly	RN 900865	Warning with Stipulations	10/21/21
Allen, Laura	RN 632395	Voluntary Surrender	10/1/21	Davis, Janet Mochama	LVN 226715	Remedial Education	9/17/21
Alquero, Terestia	RN 440624	Revoked	9/14/21	Dillon, Rachel Miller	RN 830816	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21
Amaya, Stephanie Nichole	RN 969792 & LVN 326039	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21	Domondon, Joseph Jesse	RN 899766	Revoked	8/10/21
Anders-Slovak, Katherine E.	RN 521476	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21	Dozier, Jill S.	RN 624800	Enforced Suspension	8/9/21
Attia, Crystal Sayea	LVN 335172	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21	Drackley, Terra Michele	LVN 214473	Revoked	8/10/21
Avila, Regina	RN 772613	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21	Duroux, Amy Jo	LVN 181497	Revoked	8/10/21
Avila, Sandra	LVN 202339	Revoked	10/21/21	Enriquez, Jennaleigh Renee	RN 902063	Revoked	8/10/21
Barkers, Delvackia Rayna	LVN 199105	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	9/14/21	Eseny, Rory Frost	LVN 342309	Reprimand with Stipulations	8/10/21
Barksdale, Deadria Renee	RN 844320	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	8/10/21	Espin, Rose Marie	RN 611811	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21
Barnes, Lisa Faye	RN 944536	Voluntary Surrender	8/23/21	Faison, Linda Faye	LVN 116268	Voluntary Surrender	10/29/21
Barrera, Neomi Sara	RN 806350	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21	Fakunle, Henry Ade	LVN 220593	Probated Suspension	9/14/21
Beard, Rodney Dale	RN 774085	Enforced Suspension	9/14/21	Fetzer, Rebecca Lynn	RN 857872	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21
Belcher, Daniel Lamont	LVN 321656	Enforced Suspension	9/20/21	Folefack, Aline Zanguim	RN 1050847 & NY RN 655138	Remedial Education with Fine	8/10/21
Bell, Allen Wallace	LVN 225339	Revoked	9/14/21	Fry, Farrah Elizabeth	RN 845624	Probated Suspension	9/14/21
Bell, Keisha Lenay	RN 927928	Remedial Education with Fine	10/18/21	Galvan, Jose Ignacio	RN 898406 & LVN 321799	Revoked	8/10/21
Benavides, Cathy Waldon	AP114037 & RN 545924	Remedial Education	8/23/21	Garcia, Joel Andres	RN 748182	Remedial Education with Fine	9/30/21
Berich, Rebecca	RN 933599	Warning with Stipulations	10/21/21	Garcia, Kevin	LVN 351411	Probated Suspension	10/21/21
Bernard, Jill Ann	RN 781661	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	9/14/21	Garcia, Patricia Puente	RN 631303 & LVN 129780	Probated Suspension	9/14/21
Bilbo, David Ralph	RN 593633 & LVN 134447	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21	Gerhart, Jessica Lynne	AP127998, RX 17837 & RN 825592	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21
Brackens, Cheryl	AP111584, RX 4572 & RN 637929	Revoked	8/10/21	Go, Kenneth Albert Maraon	RN 749460	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21
Brookshire, Brandon R.	LVN 320440	Revoked	8/10/21	Goble, William	RN 642486 & LVN 158103	Revoked	8/20/21
Brose, Richard Louis	RN 561932	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21	Gomez, Lauren Denise	LVN 335489	Reprimand with Stipulations	8/10/21
Brown, Audrey	RN 887253	Probated Suspension	8/10/21	Gonzales, Angela Lea	RN 689629	Enforced Suspension	9/7/21
Brown, Mary Ellen	LVN 322901	Warning with Stipulations	10/21/21	Gonzales, Rachel A.	LVN 176865	Voluntary Surrender	9/2/20
Burns, Amy	LVN 306716	Revoked	10/21/21	Gonzalez, Jenessa Lauren	LVN 230858	Probated Suspension	9/14/21
Butler, Shareta	RN 871435	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	8/10/21	Goodman, Lacresha Dawn	LVN 208741	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	9/14/21
Cain, Ruthie M.	RN 628682	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21	Grant, Theresa	RN 505820	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21
Camizzi, Christie Lynn	RN 572300	Remedial Education with Fine	10/22/21	Graves, Vinshanda Hills	LVN 228623	Remedial Education, Deferred	8/4/21
Campoy, Meredith Elaine	LVN 334579	Warning with Stipulations	10/21/21	Grissom, Tabitha Lynn	LVN 193842	Voluntary Surrender	9/13/21
Carter, Rachael D.	RN 819482	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21	Groner, Jr., James Richard	LVN 231054	Reprimand with Stipulations	8/10/21
Chavez, Roxanne Young	AP115421 & RN 541248	Voluntary Surrender	9/14/21	Gutierrez, Gloria Hortensia	LVN 121567	Probated Suspension	8/10/21
Clark, Billie Dawn	RN 714445 & LVN 176984	Voluntary Surrender	8/10/21	Hart, Glenda Marie	LVN 220814	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/21/21
Claybourn, Tera Nicole	RN 696826	Enforced Suspension	9/14/21	Hernandez, Mary Ann	LVN 349780	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21
Clayton, Bernadette A.	RN 751150 & LVN 193991	Probated Suspension	9/14/21	Hernandez, Nina Edith	RN 892701	Enforced Suspension	9/14/21
Cole, Lynne M.	RN 537653	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21	Hill, Holly Walden	RN 829234	Enforced Suspension	10/21/21
Collins, Beatrice	RN 633272	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21	Hinds, Krystal	RN 959546	Voluntary Surrender	10/22/21
				Horn, Shuntivis	RN 919100	Reprimand with Stipulations	8/10/21

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# DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- cont. from prev. pg.

Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date	Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date
Iloka, Emmanuel Ifeanyi	RN 921169	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	9/14/21	Piatt, Jolyn	RN 941003	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	8/10/21
Inzurriaga, Karen	AP132909, RX 22233 & RN 638589	Warning with Stipulations	10/21/21	Pickett, Jennifer Joyce	AP117198, RX 8788 & RN 679725	Enforced Suspension	9/8/21
Isbell, Sherry Lenora	RN 761528	Revoked	9/14/21	Powers, Shaste Dawn	RN 834008	Probated Suspension	9/14/21
Ivie, Ronda Machele	LVN 311681	Revoked	9/14/21	Prignano, Selene Roxanne	PTP NM RN R62107	Voluntary Surrender	10/22/21
Izuka, Ogechi Patience	RN 880632	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	9/14/21	Ramirez, Eduardo	LVN 157668	Revoked	8/10/21
Jama, Abdulkadir M.	LVN 351004	Remedial Education	10/7/21	Ramirez, Teresa De Jesus	AP131268 & RX 20716	Voluntary Surrender	10/20/21
Johnson, Cedrina Lachelle	RN 965746	Enforced Suspension	9/23/21	Ramirez, Teresa De Jesus	RN 643825	Remedial Education	10/20/21
Johnson, Frances Ann	LVN 302376	Revoked	9/14/21	Reddy, Trivikram	AP121198	Revoked	6/10/21
Johnson, Leketshia Lynette	RN 867974	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21	Rees, Ashleigh Rene	RN 1015016	Remedial Education	10/11/21
Kelly, Kimberly Diane	LVN 191594	Remedial Education	10/20/21	Rhodes, Kristina Gail	LVN 192383	Enforced Suspension	10/21/21
Keown, Emily Rachel	RN 815420	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21	Rice, Tawhanna	RN 628901 & LVN 150870	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21
Kirby, Beth Alison	LVN 185186	Revoked	3/21/18	Robinson, Angelina Nwannedimkpa	LVN 233430	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	8/10/21
Lepere, Lisa	RN 920189	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	9/14/21	Robinson, Elsa Maritza	RN 875371	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	10/21/21
Lira, Brandi Allison	LVN 222206	Revoked	9/14/21	Robinson, Tammy Lynn	LVN 115999	Probated Suspension	10/21/21
Locke, II, Lou Randall	AP128352 & RN 803997	Revoked	8/10/21	Rodriguez, Felicia Irene	LVN 338616	Revoked	8/10/21
Lombardo, Whitney	RN 770194	Revoked	9/14/21	Rogers, Michael J.	LVN 305795	Voluntary Surrender	9/24/21
Longoria, Lisa R.	RN 611216	Remedial Education	8/12/21	Rudolph, Kasie C.	RN 665020	Revoked	9/14/21
Lowe, Daniel J.	AP113275, RX 5557 & RN 255200	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21	Ruiz, Francisco Javier	RN 895502	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21
Lualaba, Vivi Enkoto	RN 842377	Warning with Stipulations, Deferred	10/21/21	Saenz, Victor	AP116954 & RN 638811	Remedial Education	10/18/21
Martinez, Teresa Marie	LVN 188383	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21	Safar, Kaylynn Marie	LVN 232751	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21
Masedman, Helen Martin	RN 700839	Revoked	10/21/21	Salinas, Michael Anthony	LVN 154981	Warning with Stipulations	10/21/21
Mason, Scott Lee	RN 881675	Probated Suspension	9/14/21	Samuel, Leelamma S.	RN 576225	Remedial Education with Fine	10/20/21
Mathiews, Laura Ross	LVN 215123	Reprimand with Stipulations	8/10/21	Sanchez, Kimberly Marga	LVN 153869	Remedial Education	8/16/21
Matthews, Rasha Fhame	RN 877183	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21	Sanders, Shelly	AP145840, RX 34121 & RN 832673	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21
McAden, Karen Beth	RN 583519	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21	Santos, Carlito Santiago	RN 912048	Revoked	6/23/21
McCormick, Ann Marie	LVN 144595	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21	Santos, Ricardo Bautista	RN 899942	Voluntary Surrender	9/1/21
McCown, Desiree Tara	LVN 304760	Reprimand with Stipulations	8/10/21	Serna, Celina	AP138153, RN 725235 & LVN 199167	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21
McDade, Latisha Nicole	RN 884154	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21	Shevrovich, Sherri Ann	RN 858152	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21
McGaughey, Laura Amber	RN 720489	Revoked	8/10/21	Sikitu, Rehema Mami	RN 965729	Reprimand with Stipulations	8/10/21
McGuire, Amanda Harper	RN 779772	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/21/21	Simpson, Amber Lee	RN 732788	Enforced Suspension	10/11/21
McIntyre, Brandi Nichole	RN 925764	Remedial Education with Fine	9/9/21	Singer, Jane Eva	AP116471, RX 8234 & RN 748666	Probated Suspension	9/14/21
Mehne, Haley Christine	RN 940209	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/21/21	Singleton, Ashley Nicole	LVN 221906	Revoked	8/10/21
Mena, Andrew Christian	RN 895774	Revoked	8/10/21	Skinner, Brittani	RN 736102	Enforced Suspension	9/29/21
Miles, Eric Adam	RN 729968	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	9/14/21	Small, Stacey W.	LVN 303928	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	10/21/21
Miller, Rebekkah Pauline	RN 858920	Revoked	8/10/21	Solis, Pedro Luis	RN 867724	Reprimand with Stipulations	8/10/21
Mills, Denise A.	RN 621831	Voluntary Surrender	9/16/21	Sotelo, Darla Sue	LVN 335106	Remedial Education	8/30/21
Mitchell, Christie Ann	LVN 184775	Voluntary Surrender	8/23/21	Souter, Delilah Jeannine	RN 916223	Voluntary Surrender	8/30/21
Molina Arreola, Saul	LVN 185520	Remedial Education with Fine	10/12/21	Standridge, Christi Michelle	LVN 352206	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	8/10/21
Moore, Christopher	AP122293 & RN 667561	Revoked	7/1/21	Stedman, Dana L.	RN 593475	Revoked	8/10/21
Morgan, Amber Nicole	RN 881701	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	9/14/21	Stewart, Cynthia	RN 630994	Voluntary Surrender	8/12/21
Mortimer, Cheryl Diane	RN 535073 & LVN 111952	Revoked	8/10/21	Stogner, Sandra Mae	LVN 200347	Voluntary Surrender	8/16/21
Mrozinski, Gregory Norman	AP120455, RX 11395 & RN 776714	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/21/21	Stokes, Summer Marie	RN 775086 & LVN 198806	Enforced Suspension	8/18/21
Nelson, Lynnett Manyell	RN 733209	Voluntary Surrender	10/26/21	Stout, Angela Danise	RN 735916 & LVN 185831	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21
Nichols, Cassie	RN 945282 & LVN 198195	Revoked	8/10/21	Stuart, Taryn Elise	LVN 224109	Revoked	7/29/21
Ordonez, Casey Danielle	LVN 164233	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21	Stuckey, Erica Anne	RN 665211	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	10/21/21
Parker, Keneisha Sulette	RN 843523 & LVN 303265	Remedial Education with Fine	8/24/21	Summerville, Nakiah Q.	RN 941273	Warning with Stipulations and Fine	9/14/21
Pellot, Joel	AP130821 & RN 897122	Revoked	9/14/21				

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## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- cont. from prev. pg.

Name	License Numbers	Discipline	Action Date
Talamantez, Dalia Becerra	RN 508653	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21
Taylor, Maggie Sue	RN 754915 & LVN 213649	Remedial Education	10/15/21
Terrell-Tilton, Lynn Jacki	RN 657800	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21
Terry, Kimberle Rochelle	LVN 325412	Remedial Education with Fine	8/16/21
Thompson, Antoinette Michelle	AP130232 & RN 890276	Limited License	8/10/21
Timberlake, Shondra Renee	LVN 178624	Remedial Education	8/26/21
Tobin, Michelle Cherree	LVN 218826	Probated Suspension	10/21/21
Torres, Jonathon Cruz	RN 885700	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21
Trepanier, Brea Noelle	RN 950679	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21
Uche, Patience Uko	RN 688781 & LVN 164597	Reprimand with Stipulations	8/10/21
Udensi, Sr., Ifeanyi Obi	RN 590120	Revoked	8/10/21
Uzoma, Francisca Akuyoma	RN 919483	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21
Valdez, Fernando	LVN 225560	Revoked	10/21/21
Valdez, Lynsy Anne	LVN 221051	Revoked	8/10/21
Vandenbroeke, Dawn Michelle	LVN 202357	Reprimand with Stipulations	9/14/21
Vitrano, John Joseph	LVN 352829	Enforced Suspension	8/10/21
Walkington, Amber Kay	AP121858 & RN 816595	Probated Suspension	7/22/21
Wigington, Erica Michelle	LVN 223309	Remedial Education	10/20/21
Wiland, Tamara D.	LVN 93639	Reprimand with Stipulations	10/21/21
Wilburn, Wesley Karl	LVN 112044	Revoked	8/10/21
Wiley, Kerry (Curtis)	RN 734585	Voluntary Surrender	10/29/21
Wilhite, Bradley Edward	RN 745274	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21
Williams, Kimberly Rose	LVN 214306	Revoked	10/21/21
Williams, Latasha C.	LVN 312525	Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine	8/10/21
Willis, Deanna Lee	LVN 337254	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21
Winston, Jacqueline Juanita	RN 974822	Warning with Stipulations	8/10/21
Yancy, Latandra Ternaesha	LVN 208891	Warning with Stipulations	9/14/21
Young, Victoria Nicole	RN 947708 & LVN 340504	Remedial Education	9/13/21
Zapien, Jorge Alberto	RN 863584	Voluntary Surrender	9/21/21

### Abbreviations in the Notice of Disciplinary Action Section

**PTP** Privilege to Practice in Texas, also known as Nurse Licensure Compact Privilege, associated with the indicated state and license. States are abbreviated using the official two letter state abbreviations of the United States Postal System.

**RX** Prescription Authorization

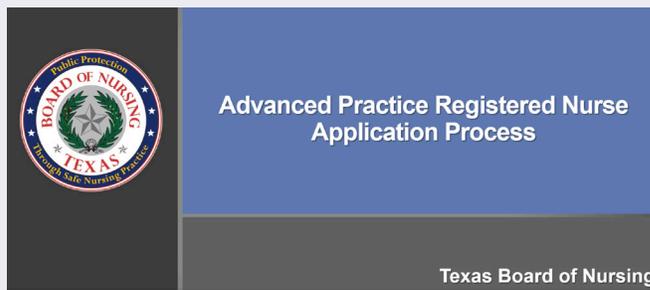
### Statistical information

The 210 disciplinary actions reported in this newsletter represent only 0.045% of nurses who are currently licensed to practice in the State of Texas.

As of August 20, 2021, 99.66% of current Registered Nurses and 99.34% of current Licensed Vocational Nurses were without public discipline according to Board records.

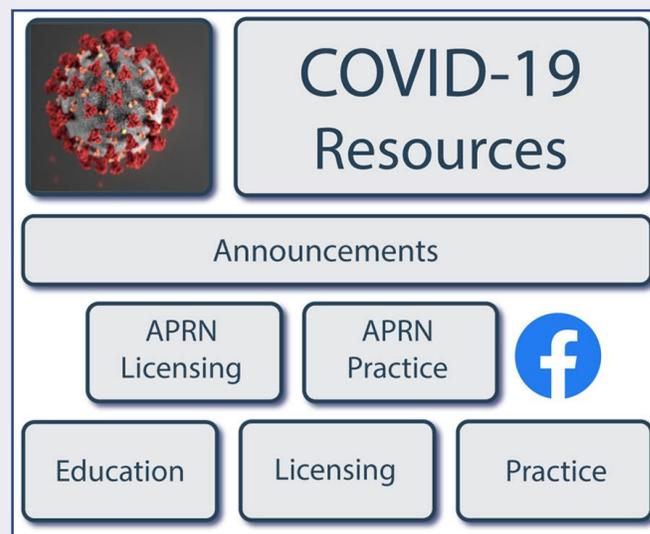
## What's New on the BON Website

Have you been to the Board of Nursing website lately? Check back periodically to see new resources and information relating to nursing.



### NEW: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Application Process Video

The Texas Board of Nursing has developed a new online presentation to assist Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) students with the APRN application process. This presentation outlines how to submit the APRN application and fee (with or without prescriptive authority), what takes place during application and mail processing, and provides expected processing times to help applicants better determine when they can expect the issuance of full APRN licensure. The recorded presentation can be found on the Board's website on the Advanced Practice Information page at: [https://www.bon.texas.gov/practice\\_nursing\\_practice\\_aprninfo.asp](https://www.bon.texas.gov/practice_nursing_practice_aprninfo.asp)



Questions about COVID-19 resources and information from the Texas Board of Nursing (Board)? Visit the Board COVID-19 Resource page at: [www.bon.texas.gov/COVID-19.asp](http://www.bon.texas.gov/COVID-19.asp) for the latest updates. Here you will find information regarding approved waivers, announcements, and other resources that impact nurse licensure, education, and practice.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN's) International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS) is offering an invaluable series of free online COVID-19 courses for health care professionals. Three of the four courses offer continuing education credit upon completion.

Offered in a self-paced and concise format, the courses were designed to provide new, established, and returning nurses with training and resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. The courses include: "COVID-19: Epidemiology, Modes of Transmission

and Protecting Yourself with PPE," "COVID-19: Nursing Care," "COVID-19: Basic Law and Ethics for Nurses during COVID-19" and "COVID-19: Credible Information, Hoaxes, and the Media."

Maryann Alexander, PhD, RN, FAAN, chief officer, NCSBN Nursing Regulation, comments, "In addition to being essential resources for nurses who may be called upon to treat patients with COVID-19, these courses contain valuable information for anyone wishing to increase their knowledge of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Nurses and other health care workers are invited to self-enroll through the ICRS Connections Catalog at: <https://catalog.icrsncsbn.org/>.

Enrollment questions should be directed to: [icrs@ncsbn.org](mailto:icrs@ncsbn.org).

The NCSBN is a not-for-profit organization whose U.S. members include the nursing regulatory bodies in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four U.S. territories. NCSBN empowers and supports nursing regulators in their mandate to protect the public.

## Proposed and Adopted Rules - cont. from pg. 3

Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Based upon these findings, the Board adopted Education Guideline 3.2.4.a, which provided guidance to accredited programs regarding their exemption from compliance with certain Board rules. This guidance was also included in Board Rule 214.4. However, the rule did not include a specific reference to ACEN or CCNE at that time. In October 2012, Board Rule 214.4(c)(8) was amended to specifically incorporate the title of Education Guideline 3.2.4.a. into the rule. The title of Education Guideline 3.2.4.a specifically referenced the names of the Board's approved national nursing accreditation agencies, the ACEN and CCNE. These two accreditation agencies have remained the only accreditation agencies recognized by the Board until recently. The National League for Nursing (NLN) launched a third nursing accreditation organization in 2013, and 115 education programs across 29 states representing all program types have been pre-accredited or accredited by the NLN Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA). On May 25, 2021, the NLN CNEA was recognized by the United States Department of Education as a fully accrediting agency for an initial five-year period. At its July 2021 meeting, the Board voted to add the NLN CNEA to its list of approved accreditation agencies, recognized by the United States Department of Education, and determined to have standards equivalent to the Board's ongoing approval standards for nursing education programs. Due to the addition of an additional accreditation agency, the title of Education Guideline 3.2.4.a was also amended to eliminate reference to the specific approved accreditation agencies. Instead, the title of the guideline was amended to refer more generically to Board-approved national nursing accreditation agencies. Adopted amendments to §214.4(c) and §215.4 were effective November 23, 2021.

The Board also adopted amendments to §215.2, relating to *Definitions*, without changes to the proposed text published in the September 10, 2021, edition of the *Texas Register* (46 TexReg 5730). 22 *Texas Administrative Code* Chapter 215 relates to professional nursing education programs, not vocational nursing education programs. The adopted amendments were necessary to correct a typographical error in §215.2 from vocational to professional. Adopted amendments to §215.2 were effective November 23, 2021.

The BON also adopted amendments to §217.24(e), relating to *Telemedicine Medical Service Prescriptions*, with changes to the proposed text published in the August 13, 2021, issue of the *Texas Register* (46 TexReg 4971). On March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas certified COVID-19 as posing an imminent threat of disaster to the public health and safety and declared a state of disaster in all counties of Texas. On March 23, 2020, the Office of the Governor granted a waiver of 22 *Texas Administrative Code* §217.24(e), which prohibits an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) from treating chronic pain with scheduled drugs through the use of telemedicine medical services, unless otherwise permitted under federal and state law. The waiver, however, expired on June 6, 2020. The Board held a public meeting on June 8, 2020, to consider the adoption of an emergency rule to permit APRNs to treat chronic pain with scheduled drugs through the use of telemedicine medical services under certain conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board voted to adopt emergency amendments to 22 *Texas Administrative Code* §217.24(e). Subsequently, the Board found that the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the continuation of emergency amendments to §217.24(e) and re-adopted emergency amendments to the section several times, the

last adoption taking effect on August 1, 2021. During its public meeting on July 30, 2021, the Board determined that permanent rule amendments to §217.24(e), consistent with those amendments adopted on an emergency basis during the pandemic, should also be considered due to the continuation of the pandemic and recent increases in the number of new COVID cases throughout the state. Further, the Board determined it would routinely evaluate the continued need for a permanent rule as the pandemic progresses to ensure ongoing compliance with state and federal law and to determine when, and if, the necessity of the permanent rule ceases to exist. Amendments to §217.24 were effective November 25, 2021.

In the **November 26, 2021**, edition of the *Texas Register*:

The Board published its notice to review the following chapters pursuant to its adopted Rule Review Plan: Chapter 225. RN Delegation to Unlicensed Personnel and Tasks Not Requiring Delegation in Independent Living Environments for Clients with Stable and Predictable Conditions, §§225.1 - 225.15. In conducting its review, the Board will assess whether the reasons for originally adopting this chapter continues to exist. Each section of this chapter will be reviewed to determine whether it is obsolete, whether it reflects current legal and policy considerations and current procedures and practices of the Board, and whether it is in compliance with Chapter 2001 of the *Government Code* (Administrative Procedure Act).

The BON also adopted its rule review of 22 *Texas Administrative Code* §228.1 (relating to *Standards of Practice*). The adoption order may be viewed at: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/pdf/backview/1119/1119adop.pdf>



A  
Passion  
to Help  
Nurses  
Heal

## 2022 Educational Opportunities Provided by TPAPN

The Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) safeguards patients by providing early identification, support, monitoring, accountability, and advocacy to Texas nurses who have an identified substance use or mental health condition or related incident, so they may practice nursing safely. If you would like to learn more about the TPAPN program, a lunch and learn will be offered on March 9, 2022 for any nurse who wants to learn more.

The Peer Support Partner is a volunteer nurse who provides peer support, guidance, encouragement, and more, to nurses participating in TPAPN. *Peer Support Partner Informational Sessions* are currently offered monthly

by TPAPN so you can learn more about the fundamental role of the Peer Support Partner. The next information sessions are scheduled for: January 25, 2022; February 22, 2022; and March 22, 2022.

In order to become a Peer Support Partner, attendance is required at a *Peer Support Partner Workshop*. This event is designed to provide information about substance use disorder and mental health in nursing as well as information regarding peer support and is offered several times a year. The next *Peer Support Partner Workshop* is scheduled for February 11, 2022.

Current Peer Support Partners are supported in part through monthly Peer Support Partner educational

groups. The monthly *Beyond the Workshop Peer Support Partner Educational Group* will be meeting on January 20, 2022; February 24, 2022; and March 24, 2022.

To learn more about TPAPN, Peer Support Partners, or to register for their education and training opportunities, please visit the TPAPN website: [www.tpapn.org](http://www.tpapn.org). If you are ready to help another nurse by becoming a Peer Support Partner, there is an application form accessible on the TPAPN website (fill out and submit to TPAPN). The application includes responsibilities and guidelines for the Peer Support Partner, including the requirement to attend the TPAPN *Peer Support Partner Workshop*.

### Texas Board of Nursing Meeting Schedule

#### 2022 Board Meeting Dates

January 20-21	April 21-22
July 21-22	October 20-21

#### 2022 Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee Meeting Dates

February 8	March 8
May 10	June 14
August 9	September 13
November 8	December 13

All Board and Eligibility & Disciplinary Committee Meetings will be held in Austin at the William P. Hobby Building located at 333 Guadalupe, Austin, Texas, 78701.

\* - Due to the COVID-19 Virus, the Board meeting scheduled for January 20-21, 2022 may be conducted to include virtual participation. Meeting access information will be posted at [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov)

### Board of Nursing Contact Information

MAIN NUMBER.....(512) 305-7400  
 FAX.....(512) 305-7401  
 -- 24-hour Access  
 -- License Verification  
 -- General Information

ENFORCEMENT.....(512) 305-6838  
 -- Complaint and Disciplinary Action Inquiries  
 -- Violations of NPA and Rules and Regulations  
 -- Monitoring of Disciplined RNs and LVNs

OPERATIONS

CUSTOMER SERVICE.....(512) 305-6809  
 -- License Renewals, Endorsement, Examination, or  
 Continuing Education for Nurses.....[webmaster@bon.texas.gov](mailto:webmaster@bon.texas.gov)

SALES OF LISTS.....(512) 305-6848  
 -- Electronic Nurse Files  
 -- Publications

PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL NURSING

ADVANCED PRACTICE.....(512) 305-6843  
 -- APRN Application and  
 Prescriptive Authority Procedures.....[aprn@bon.texas.gov](mailto:aprn@bon.texas.gov)

NURSING EDUCATION.....(512) 305-6816

NURSING PRACTICE.....(512) 305-6802  
 -- Nursing Practice Issues  
 -- Legislation  
 -- Workshop Information.....(512) 305-6844  
 -- Workshop e-mail inquiries.....[workshops@bon.texas.gov](mailto:workshops@bon.texas.gov)

NEWSLETTER INFO.....(512) 305-6842  
 -- WEB Address.....[www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov)  
 -- Refer e-mail inquiries to:.....[webmaster@bon.texas.gov](mailto:webmaster@bon.texas.gov)



Texas Board of Nursing  
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Austin, Texas 78701-3944



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The purpose of the *Texas Board of Nursing Bulletin* is to disseminate information to nurses licensed by the State of Texas, their employers, health care providers, and the public concerning laws and regulations established by the Texas Board of Nursing related to the safe and legal practice of nursing. The *Texas Board of Nursing Bulletin* provides information on current issues and trends in nursing regulation, status of nursing education programs, information regarding licensure and nursing practice, and disciplinary action taken against licensees who violated the Nursing Practice Act or Board Rules and Regulations.

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#### Office Hours and Location

The office of the Texas Board of Nursing is located in the William P. Hobby Building, located at the corner of 4th and Guadalupe in downtown Austin. The mailing address is: 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas 78701-3944. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for designated holidays. At this time the Board's office is closed to visitors. If you need to reach the Board, please call (512) 305-7400 or send an email to: [webmaster@bon.texas.gov](mailto:webmaster@bon.texas.gov)

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### Nursing Delegation: Distribution of the Workload\*\*<

This course provides all licensed nurses with information on the current standards of nursing practice, rules, and regulations applicable to nursing delegation in Texas, providing nurses with 2.0 CNE contact hours. Cost: \$25.00.

### Nursing Peer Review: Safe Harbor Nursing Peer Review and Whistleblower Protections\*\*

The purpose of this online continuing education offering is to provide all licensed nurses with information on the current standards of nursing practice, rules, and regulations applicable to Safe Harbor Nursing Peer Review and Whistleblower Protections in Texas. This course is approved for 1.3 CNE contact hours. Cost \$25.00.

### Nursing Peer Review: Incident-Based Nursing Peer Review and the Minor Incident Rule\*\*

The purpose of this online continuing education offering is to provide all licensed nurses with information on the current standards of nursing practice, rules, and regulations applicable to Incident-Based Nursing Peer Review and the Minor Incident Rule in Texas. This course is approved for 1.6 CNE contact hours. Cost \$25.00.

### BON Lifelong Learning Account

Depending on the continuing education course, you may be required to log into your individual account to complete follow-up learning activities and/or course evaluations after a workshop, webinar, or online course in order to receive your CNE certificate of completion.

Your BON Lifelong Learning Account will also contain links for workshop handouts, any required forms, post-activity certificates of completion, and other helpful resources for each registered activity. If questions arise during your registration or during an online learning course, there are specific Help links throughout the process to direct you to the dedicated Online Learning Help Desk.

Secure online payments are completed using major credit cards, bank cards (those with Visa or MasterCard logos), or online checks. Registration payments submitted directly to the Board will be returned and the registration process will be delayed. Employers, organizations, or groups can complete payment for multiple registrants with the purchase of a bulk voucher. The bulk voucher system will send the voucher information to the group coordinator for distribution to individual registrants. Each individual will use the voucher as the form of payment during her/his own online registration.

### BON Continuing Competency Offerings Address Nursing Jurisprudence and Ethics Requirement

In 2013, the 83rd Regular Texas Legislative Session passed a law that specified continuing education requirements for all nurses. Senate Bill (SB) 1058 requires nurses to complete at least two hours of continuing education related to nursing jurisprudence and ethics before the end of every third two-year licensing period. The BON has two continuing education offerings which meet the requirement: the workshop titled, "Protecting Your Patients & Your Practice, Nursing Jurisprudence & Ethics", and the interactive online course titled, "Nursing Regulations for Safe Practice". For more information about BON continuing competency requirements, visit the Board's website, click on **Laws and Rules**, then **Rules and Regulations**, and then **Chapter 216**.

**Please Note:** Workshop participants more than 10 minutes late or who leave prior to the end of the workshop will not receive CNE credit or meet BON stipulations.

Visit the BON CNE Catalog at <https://www.bon.texas.gov/catalog/> for the latest information.



Texas Board of Nursing  
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460  
Austin, TX 78701

## Texas Board of Nursing

### Learning Opportunities: 2022



### Continuing Competency Workshops and Online Educational Offerings

The Texas Board of Nursing is excited to offer learning opportunities for 2022. Nurses can explore a variety of topics designed to provide the most current information to support safe nursing practice. Space is limited, early registration is recommended.





## 2022 Workshops

### **Protecting Your Patients & Your Practice, Nursing Jurisprudence & Ethics** <sup>\*\*#+></sup>

*These virtual workshops have been approved for 7.5 contact hours of continuing nursing education (CNE).*

**March 9, 2022 (Wednesday)**

**June 15, 2022 (Wednesday)**

**August 10, 2022 (Wednesday)**

**September 29, 2022 (Thursday)**

**November 9, 2022 (Wednesday)**

**Note:** *Computer speakers are REQUIRED for all virtual workshops. No cash accepted for payment. Early registration is encouraged.*

**Cost:** *Virtual workshop preregistration \$79.00.*

**Time:** *8:00 am to 3:30 pm Central Standard Time (CST) for virtual workshops.*

**Note:** *Due to COVID-19, BON workshops have transitioned to virtual delivery as needed for the safety of participants. Visit the BON CNE Catalog at <https://www.bon.texas.gov/catalog/> for the latest information.*

## How to Register

You can register for all Board of Nursing (BON) educational offerings--online courses and workshops--through the BON CNE Course Catalog. To register for a BON workshop or online course, please visit our website at [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov) and select the CNE Course Catalog icon. You will receive a purchase confirmation and event reminders via your email address leading up to the scheduled activity and for post activity reminders in order to help you access your CNE Certificate of Completion. Instructions and help for confirming that your workstation is compatible with the online process are provided for each event. All of the BON CNE activities include online components that must be completed in conjunction with the activity in order to receive completion credit and certificates. When you register online, a BON Lifelong Learning Account is created that will be your home for accessing handouts, evaluations, and certificates.

### Legend

- \*\* This continuing nursing education offering was approved by the Texas Board of Nursing. The Texas Board of Nursing is an approved provider of continuing education by the Alabama Board of Nursing, ABNP1509, expiration date July 28, 2024.
- # This offering meets the 2-hour CNE requirement for nursing jurisprudence and ethics established during the 2013 Legislative Session.
- + This offering satisfies the nursing jurisprudence and ethics requirement for Board orders.
- @ This course does not award CNE contact hours.
- > The Authors, Speakers/Presenters, Content Reviewers and Experts declare that there are no conflicts of interest.
- < This course satisfies nursing delegation requirements for Board orders.



## Interactive Online Learning

### **Nursing Regulations for Safe Practice** <sup>\*\*#</sup>

This interactive online CNE course is easy to access on any schedule. Approved for 2.8 contact hours. Cost: \$25.00.

### **Prescriptive Authority for APRNs** <sup>\*\*</sup>

This course provides information on the current laws and regulations governing prescriptive authority in the State of Texas. The course is designed to help the learner develop a greater understanding of delegation of prescriptive authority to Texas APRNs and requirements that must be met for APRNs to be in compliance with Texas laws and BON rules. Approved for 1.2 contact hours. Cost: \$25.00.

### **Documentation: So Let It Be Said...In Writing That Is** <sup>\*\*</sup>

The purpose of this online continuing education activity is to provide all licensed nurses with information on the current standards of nursing practice, rules, and regulations applicable to nursing documentation in Texas. Approved for 1.4 contact hours. Cost: \$25.00.

### **Texas Online Nursing Jurisprudence Exam Prep Course** <sup>@</sup>

The BON has developed a Nursing Jurisprudence Exam Prep Course that offers interactive instruction on the subject areas covered on the Nursing Jurisprudence Exam (NJE). The prep course is delivered online with the ability to bookmark "Hot Topics" to review later. The course, complete with training on how to locate information on the BON website, also includes access to printable resources and practice questions that will be useful, not only for NJE preparation but also for your future nursing practice. Cost: \$25.00.

### **Determining APRN Scope of Practice** <sup>\*\*</sup>

The purpose of this online continuing education activity is to provide advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) with information on the current standards of nursing practice, rules, and regulations applicable to the advanced practice scope of practice in Texas. Approved for 1.4 contact hours. Cost: \$25.00.